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030008-2

DATE: 17 December '71

TO: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Thru: Chief, DDI/Information Requirements Stf
FROM: CIA Member, COMIREX

SUBJECT: OLD HEAD Program

REMARKS:

1. The DIA Member, COMIREX, reported at the Committee's meeting Wednesday afternoon that SAC had been authorized to discontinue weekly U-2 flights over Cuba and return to the minimum one mission-a-month program normally required to satisfy the standing USIB coverage requirement. This step was taken without advance coordination with COMIREX. It was contrary, moreover, to a recommendation for continuation of weekly flights which CIA had conveyed to DIA through COMIREX channels late last week. I protested the action both for that reason and on the general ground that it should have been subjected to prior review and coordination in the COMIREX machinery. supported this position in strong terms.

2. The DIA Member explained that SAC had requested relief from the weekly requirement to permit home-base aircraft overhaul at Davis-Monthan. He also said that he was unaware that COMIREX had been by-passed

DIA review(s)
completed.

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in the Pentagon coordination and approval of the SAC request. He apologized for that oversight, indicated that he would take steps to assure that it would not be repeated, and assured COMIREX that SAC was maintaining a capability to overfly Cuba on 24-hour notice.

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3. Prior to the COMIREX meeting on Wednesday afternoon, [] had informed me that we could propose reversion to the normal U-2 schedule provided we had one more successful mission by the end of next week. Although that proposal was immediately passed to the Chairman of the COMIREX collection subcommittee it did not reach DIA prior to the COMIREX meeting. [] advised me yesterday morning that we need not press for a last "weekly" mission.

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4. The COMIREX minutes will clearly record both the Committee's concern over this coordination lapse and the firm notice given DIA to foolproof its community coordination procedures. [] and I believe that DIA will move effectively to forestall further such incidents.

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